

the soul of a good man lives and is happy far
out of sight.” “I know! I know!” and she clapped her
hands again.

But on our return to the house she astounded
Nancy, who came to put her to bed, with
the information that her papa's “singing soul”
had gone up into the white clouds, and she was
going to “hawk for it” all the next day.”

“Heaven save us, Missy! Your papa's crach
only reply to such heresy.”

It was a painful thought that the child must
have been taken from her mother, when I saw her
nestly lying down into that mother's lap, kiss her
passive lips, and sink contentedly to sleep with
the rocking of the ever-swinging chair. Again
I tried, but hopelessly as before, to win one
moment of remembrance and love from those in-
different lips.

“Mother! one good-night blessing!” I plead,
bending my face to hers.

“Hush! the baby sleeps! They all sleep-
well-well!”

Oh, what is the wreck of mortality to the
wreck of man! “Thank God! the soul is im-
mortal;” and in some hours of its endless exist-
ence it will burst those fetters in which bodily
feelings have bound it! With this conviction,
I at last closed my eyes, after hours of painful
thinking.

It must have been two o'clock, when I started
from a half-formed dream, at the sound of a
low chuckling laugh not far from me, so pecu-
liar that it would have aroused me at once, even
had not the long streamers of smoke which
poured through the fissures of my door warned
me of my imminent danger. I threw open the
door, and saw, in the darkness of the room, a
girl holding her father's remains. She held a
lighted lamp in her hand, whose spark was
dim beside the fearful configuration it had
kindled! The room was a sheet of flame! Bed-
hangings, window-curtains, and the papers of
a large library at the farther end, blazed as
though fired at the same instant! A volume of
smoke turned up and nearly stifled me.

“Mother, for Heaven's sake!” I cried, seiz-
ing her arm.

“Ha! ha!” she laughed, “I've warmed
the room! It was so cold and dark in there!”

The mind, aroused by the fire, flew screw-
loose, and added to instead of reducing my
perplexity. I dared not leave my maniac
mother by the blaze she had kindled, to summon
the help that must soon be at hand, to avert
anything. To calm her into the proper use of
her muscles, and despatch her screaming to the
village, was my first task; my second, quick
as thought, was to drag my half-suffocated
mother outside the gate, and lay her upon the
damp grass, with the half-awakened child at
her side. Holding her there, I listened in
agony for the footsteps that should come, with
my eyes fixed on the glare that crept every
higher.

It burst through the low roof, a wide flame
of solid flame, at the same instant that the blare
of “Fire! Fire!” close at hand, told of
succor.

A crowd of neighbors were soon at my door.
Organization in that crowd would have saved
the burning building. But every man's head
was turned to the work his own head had
planned, and every head seemed equally con-
fused. As day-dawn looked over the hills, the
walls fell in with a crash! The furniture, in
general, had been saved; but a heap of red
and black embers was all now left me of that
home! I had told to give my parents!

(TO BE CONTINUED.)

For the *National Era*.

BELL SMITH ABROAD.

NO. X.

THE OLD MASTERS.

DEAR FRIEND: I wrote my last in a posi-
tively ill spirit, and it was a fair picture of
my own feeling than this beautiful city. I
would not re-write a word there put in black
and white, but only add, that such evils have
their corresponding good. We do not have
very honest dealing here, or kind treatment
of our servants piled to supply the wealthy with the
“pomp of shrouded woe;” I have turned in
disgust from the graceful folds of crapes and
bombarines, and repeated, with Lulu, “Heaven
is not black!” Why do we believe in bright-
realities?

Well, the custom of a civilized world has its
charms, even to the tearful eyes of the true
mourner. It is soothing to find that on that
more can be done in behalf of the beloved
friend for whom all other labors have ceased.
Whether “the fashion of this world” will ever
accept of a fitting substitute for the parade of
mourning which has so long shadowed society,

is extremely doubtful.

I left the mockery of this outward show,
when the badges of grief were brought to me,
yet passively submitted. My little sister was
brought in by the pastor and his wife, her fair
hair and face thrown into bright relief by
the golden glory of dress.

“Is it necessary to take this child to the
churchyard?” I asked, as the clergyman, in
the course of our brief conversation, made a re-
mark to that effect.

“I think the impression might be salutary
upon one of her age,” he answered. “No
thinking being is too young to learn much of
the mystery of Death. Eulalia, should you
like to follow your dear father to his grave?”

“Yes, sir, if mamma and brother Ralph are
going,” she answered, with a puffed look.

But when we stood by the portal of “the
house where we live,” and I lifted her in
my arms with the “crown,” with its black,
swelling drapery, was lowered into its depths,
she gave a piercing scream, and clung to my
neck convulsively.

“Oh, papa! I am a story-mamma
now,” she said, as she lighted the candle away
from her eyes.

“Your papa's soul is in Heaven, I told
you, little sister,” said I, as gently as possible.

“Did they take him out of that dreadful
place?” she whispered, shuddering again, while
she shaded her eyes with both hands, and
gazed keenly into the clouds above.

“Mamma said he would be a great angel, with white
wings; but, oh, it scared me so when they put him
in there! I was like a story-mamma when he lighted the
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of the resolutions to a Committee of the Whole on the state of the Union, and negatived; and the question coming up on their final passage, they were adopted—years 174, now 9. The rays were as follows: Messrs. Abercrombie, Clark, Aaron Harlan, Haven, Geo. W. Jones, Macdonald, Parker, Parry, and William R. Smith.

The resolutions, as adopted, are as follows: *Be it resolved, &c.* That the thanks of Congress are and they are hereby presented to Duncan N. Ingraham, commanding the United States sloop-of-war St. Louis, for his judicious and gallant conduct on the 2d day of July last, in extending the protection of the American Government to Martin Koszt, by rescuing him from forcible and illegal seizure and imprisonment on board the Austrian brig *Husar*.

Resolved. That the President of the United States be and is hereby requested to cause to be made a medal, with suitable device, and presented to Capt. Duncan N. Ingraham, as a testimonial of the high sense entertained by Congress of his valor, promptness, and judicious conduct on the above mentioned occasion.

Resolved. That the President of the United States cause the foregoing resolutions to be communicated to Capt. Duncan N. Ingraham, in such terms as he may deem best calculated to give effect to the objects thereof.

Mr. Stanton, of Kentucky, from the Committee on Printing, moved to refer various resolutions for printing in copies of the report of the Seventh Census, and a report on the same, accompanied by a resolution providing for the printing of fifty thousand copies of a Compendium of the Census, embracing certain specified statistics.

A brief debate ensued, when, without taking the question on the resolution, The House adjourned.

WASHINGTON, D. C.

THURSDAY, JANUARY 19, 1854.

HOW ABOUT THE DAILY?

A slow growth! If it should stand at the point where it is now, it will absorb the entire profits of the Weekly this year, and about \$5,000 more. So the kind friends who were so alarmed lest we should grow rich, can now be reassured. Nevertheless, we are not sorry that we embarked in the new enterprise. We counted the cost, are not disappointed, and shall not complain. Never was a *Daily Era* more imperatively called for than now, when the Slave Power is conspiring to rob Freedom of Territory enough to make a dozen Free States.

Our real friends will do what they can to lighten our burden, by working away for the Weekly, and sending us a subscriber to the Daily whenever they can. We do not trust to the large cities, but the heart of the country. There is not working Anti-Slavery sentiment enough in any of them to sustain an Anti-Slavery press. How can there be, where Mammon is worshipped as a god?

A REVIEW—1787, 1854.

In 1787, an Ordinance was passed by the Congress of the Confederation for the Government of the Northwest Territory, the claim to which had been surrendered by Virginia, New York, and Connecticut. That Ordinance contained a provision, in the form of a solemn compact, forever excluding Slavery from the Territory—the only Territory belonging to the Confederation.

In 1787, in the Convention that framed the Federal Constitution, power was conferred upon Congress to prohibit the importation of slaves in the year 1808; but at that day the universal opinion was, that to abolish the slave trade, or prohibit the supply of slaves, was a measure involving the extinction of Slavery itself.

In the same Convention the utmost care was taken to exclude from the Constitution the word "Slave," or "Slavery," because obnoxious to the great majority of the members; and to avoid the use of any language that might imply that human beings could be held as property. Nor could the provision in relation to slave representation, or fugitives from service or labor, have been carried in the Convention, but for the general understanding that Slavery was to be regarded as strictly local, to be limited to the States in which it already existed, which, it was also believed, were about to take measures for its extinction.

In the first Congress under the Constitution, a memorial was presented, signed by Benjamin Franklin and other Revolutionary patriots, praying that Congress would go to the verge of its constitutional powers against Slavery. It was received, respectfully referred, reported upon, and made the subject of a general debate—when, on motion, the report was ordered to be entered upon the Journal of the House. It affirmed the non-existence of power in Congress to legislate on the subject of Slavery in the States, but not elsewhere.

In 1808, the moment Congress had power, it passed an act for the total abolition of the slave trade. Meantime, State after State put an end to Slavery within its limits. Congress turned a deaf ear to the memorials of disconsolate persons who sought to establish Slavery in Indians, and uniformly, in the organization of particular Territorial Governments in the Northwest Territory, reaffirmed the Anti-Slavery article of the Ordinance of 1787. Anti-Slavery Societies existed in a majority of the States, including North Carolina, Maryland, Virginia, Tennessee, Kentucky, and Delaware.

The country was Anti-Slavery—the policy of Government was Anti-Slavery.

The Territory of Louisiana, having been purchased from France, contained slaves, and the settled portions lay along the borders of the slave States. A Congress forbore to legislate on the subject, slave institutions gradually, independently grew up in the Territory, until, in 1820, Missouri sought admission into the Union. It was attempted now to carry out the understanding of those who had framed the Constitution, to pursue the settled policy of the Government—the limitation of Slavery—to incorporate into the act authorizing the People of Missouri to form a State, a provision excluding Slavery. But the Anti-Slavery Sentiment encountered an opposition it was not prepared for. The purchase of Louisiana, the toleration of Slavery therein, the growth of the sugar-cane and the culture of cotton, had strengthened and emboldened the Slave Interest. But, bear this in mind—so strong and well assured was the Anti-Slavery Sentiment, that its attitude was that of a superior. Freedom was evidently regarded on all hands as the Law; Slavery, the exception. The object was to thrust Slavery out of United States Territory; its only demand was, to be suffered to remain where it had so long been tolerated.

A Compromise was suggested by a Northern man—who but a Northern man has always struck the first blow at Freedom? That Compromise proposed to permit Missouri, although a part of it, to have above 36 deg. 30 min., to come in as a Slave State, but with the express condition that thereafter, forever, Slavery should be prohibited in all the Territory lying north of that line, comprising nearly all the unorganized Territory of the Union.

This was the first great check received by the Anti-Slavery Sentiment. From this moment, the march of the Slave Interest was onwards: the popular movements against it began to relax. Anti-Slavery Societies gradually died away in the slaveholding States.

The revival of the sentiment in 1833, and the new movements that followed, were not suffi-

cient to repress the aggressive operations of Slavery. Texas, a department of Mexico, was brought under the control of American adventurers, who established Slavery there, in defiance of Mexican Law. Rebellion arose, ending in Revolution, which finally led to the annexation of the Province, as a State, to the United States. The Anti-Slavery sentiment had again rallied, though not so vigorously as in 1820; but it was still strong enough to require at least the shadow of a concession—and it was so, in extending the protection of the American Government to Martin Koszt, by rescuing him from forcible and illegal seizure and imprisonment on board the Austrian brig *Husar*.

Resolved. That the President of the United States be and is hereby requested to cause to be made a medal, with suitable device, and presented to Capt. Duncan N. Ingraham, as a testimonial of the high sense entertained by Congress of his valor, promptness, and judicious conduct on the above mentioned occasion.

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STATE OF EUROPE—NAVAL POWER OF THE UNITED STATES.

A Telegraphic despatch in our last paper stated that private letters received in New York stated that Liverpool, announced that war had been declared by England and France against Russia. Whether the intelligence by the next arrival shall confirm this report or not, we certainly shall not be surprised to see all Europe, ere long, involved in a general war. What will be the bearings of such an event upon the relations and interest of this country?

In the protracted and fearful conflicts growing out of the French Revolution, it required all the wisdom, address, and steadfastness of our greatest statesmen to preserve a neutral attitude towards the contending Powers. The passions and antipathies of our own People, the intrigues of Foreign Governments, and their gross violations of our maritime rights, made it a most difficult and delicate task to maintain such a position. And yet neutrality was clearly our duty. Justifiable as was the French Revolution in the beginning, there was nothing in the wars that followed which could justify enlisting the sympathies of this country with either of the great contending parties. It was then no more a struggle for existence on the part of France, than for the liberty of Europe on the part of England. Both Powers were inflamed by the worst passions, and conducted the contest recklessly, unscrupulously, and in utter disregard of the rights of nations.

While our position enabled us to reap a rich harvest from the carrying trade, our weakness, and want of any Naval Force, exposed us to the most flagrant outrages. Our ships were plundered and confiscated; our flag was violated; our seamen were impressed; the nation was insulted by the armed vessels of England entering our harbors and committing petty acts of depredation.

During all this time, the idea of building a Navy was indigenously sown by the Democratic Party and by the South. It was regarded as one of the most mischievous of all Federal notions. Thomas Jefferson regarded it with peculiar aversion, as repugnant to Democratic Institutions. He and his Southern compatriots professed retiring from the ocean altogether, to building up a navy to protect commerce. Rather than go to war to defend maritime rights, let every ship that sails from our shores be sunk! exclaimed a fervent orator from the Plantation region; and this school of statesmen prevailed.

Here and there was a straggling vessel of war, which was admonished to run for shelter whenever the British were about, but a navy was not to be tolerated. Commerce was to be its own protection. If violated, non-importation acts and embargoes would bring the trespassers to terms. As for guarding the coast, gun-boats would perform that service. So Jefferson reasoned and acted, carrying on a commercial war, at the expense of commerce; and nominating and paying off the debt of the country, but leaving it without defence, while by habitual submission to flagrant insult and wrong, he invited aggression, and by embargoes and non-importation acts, only aggravated the hostile feelings already existing. During his entire administration and that of Madison up to the Declaration of War, in 1812, this anti-naval policy prevailed to such an extent, indeed, that only a few months before the breaking out of the war, the Democratic majority in Congress refused to vote even the petty sum of \$300,000 to refit two or three frigates; and immediately after war was declared, it was seriously proposed, in Washington, to retain at home the five frigates, two sloops, and five brigs-of-war, of our only naval force, in apprehension of their capture should they venture to put to sea!

We never read this chapter in our history, without a feeling of deep humiliation. If, instead of paper protests for a dozen years, a war of embargoes, and the force of gun-boats, we had built, in the beginning of troubles, an efficient navy, and put it in active service as a sea police, to watch over our ships and sailors, it would have done infinitely more to prevent war, than all the long-suffering and long-winded memorials of Madison and Jefferson. We did not want a navy for purposes of war, but for police purposes. England and France saw that we had none; our commerce was a temptation to all; and so we were plucked by both Powers, till absolutely driven by desperation, at last, to resort to arms. A moderate but active and efficient naval force would have probably prevented that accumulation of wrong which finally provoked this calamitous event.

Will they never learn? As we said in the beginning of this article, the indications foreshadow a general war in Europe. What may be its varying phases, no one can predict. At first, a struggle between the Western nations and the overshadowing Despotism of the East, Revolution may burst forth at any moment, and substitute a war of Principles for a war of Rival Interests, in which the Parties now allied may be divided, and the Parties now antagonistic may be united. Meantime, our flag would float on every sea, our ships be freighted with the products of all climes. Questions like those which sprung up between France and England in the beginning of this century, might be revived; neutral rights might be again drawn into controversy. As a matter of fact, the war of 1812 determined in question connected with those rights, nor had England or France ever dissolved any of the offensive pretensions they then set up; so that we may again be called upon to vindicate the rights and privileges of neutral nations. What, then, is the best safeguard against the repetition of insults and outrages which would inevitably lead to instant war? A respectable and active naval force, ready to protect our flag against violation on every sea, against vessels which would only be attempted when impunity could be hoped for. It would be madness to burden the resources of the country with building and maintaining vast squadrons to match those of England and France. We do not need them; nor shall we ever need them, if we keep a sufficient force to act as a police for the protection of our commerce, in turbulent times, against the insolence and aggression of irresponsible naval officers.

Need we say, that the considerations we have presented constrain us to approve, on the whole, of the recommendations of the Secretary of the Navy for an increase of our naval force? So far as we can see, they are prudent, and not conceived in any spirit of aggression. Nor are they any more in conflict with the policy of Peace than the recent movement in New York to establish a more efficient police. The best remedy against mobs and riots is, an organized force, strong and well-ordered enough to prevent violence by overawing the evil-doers. So, the best way to prevent war is, to have a Police on the ocean, strong enough to prevent the commission of those irresponsible acts of violence which always lead to war. No nation should suffer its people to be caught twice in the predicament in which our foes found itself during the European wars in the beginning of this century.

We have observed many *incipient*, but no *consummated* duels since we have been here. Friends are always on the alert, with Pickwickian exclamations, to satisfy Honor without damaging the Man. Congress has lost nothing, but rather gained in manner, by the change. Men are not to be trained to good manners by their fears and by gunpowder, but by the civilization of their intellect and moral nature, by the education of their higher tastes and sentiments, and by the development of their self-respect.

Caraval and a number of other filibusters have gone to Galveston, to take their trial before the United States court.

WILL THEY NEVER LEARN?

"A burn child dreads the fire," is a proverb that does not always hold good of politicians. They are apt to rely too much upon cunning to little upon the lessons of experience. One might suppose that the Compromise Measures of 1850 had proved the death of so many, that there would be little disposition to revive the issues then passed upon, and re-enact those through Congress.

Who has been the gainer by that "settlement," as it is facetiously styled? Where are the men prominent in bringing it about?

WEBSTER, heart-broken by the disappointments and embarrassments in which it involved him, sleeps in the grave. CLAY was saved from the same fate, only by death. FILMORE was unable to obtain the vote of a National Whig Convention, against a rival candidate who had performed no signal service for the Compromise. CASS, BUCHANAN, DICKINSON, DOUGLAS, were there aside in a National Democratic Convention, to make room for one who had taken no part in the great labor of Union-saving. CORE is politically dead, by the hands of members of his own Party. FOOTE is defeated in Mississippi, and rated by "the organ," while his rival, DAVIS, distinguished for his opposition to the Compromise, holds a comfortable seat in the Cabinet, beside MARCY, the head of that section of the New York Democracy that originally upheld the Wilmot Proviso, through whose influence, DICKINSON, (the Chevalier Bayard, as the Compromisers used fondly to call him), and his lesser Chevaliers, are outcasts from Executive favor.

We can easily understand why the Administration is so zealous in behalf of the Compromise: General FIERCE and his associates are the only politicians who have profited by it, so far as the emoluments and distinctions of office are concerned; but it is marvelous that Cass, DODGE, and all that genus, should have so professed a devotion to it, as to seek its re-establishment. They certainly gained nothing by the "settlement" of 1850, and we can tell them they will gain a great deal less by the attempt to unsettle Nebraska. They are Western men—men from the free States of the West—their constituents will not thank them for countenancing a conspiracy to plant a series of slave States along the track of the Pacific railroad, between them and the Pacific ocean.

There can be no pretence, in this case, of Nationality, or devotion to the Union. Party lines have not been drawn upon the Question. It has hitherto scarcely been made a Question. The country has not been agitated—the Union unperilled. All that was needed for the organization of Nebraska, was a quiet, settled government on the part of members representing the non-slaveholding interests, to put through both Houses a simple bill for that purpose. No agitation was necessary. Such a bill passed the House last year, and not a word was uttered in regard to Slavery. It was too clearly right, to be opposed by any organized hostility among the Southern members. Many of them voted for countenancing a conspiracy to plant a series of slave States along the track of the Pacific railroad, between them and the Pacific ocean.

Mr. Weller gave notice of a bill to establish a semi monthly mail between the Atlantic and Pacific, by way of Nicaragua.

Mr. Chase, I ask leave to present the memorial of Edward A. Stanbury, and others, of the city of New York, praying for the prohibition of Slavery in the Territories, and whenever the General Government has constitutional power to do so.

Mr. Cooper presented the memorial of the American Tranship Company, signed by its President, Charles R. Morgan, praying the passage of an act which will authorize the steamers belonging to that company to obtain American registers; the steamers were owned principally by citizens of New York, though the company was chartered by the State of Nicaragua; and under the construction of the revised laws of the United States, the company are obliged to obtain registers for their steamers from Nicaragua, and cannot sail them under the American flag without the intervention of trustees. Referred to the Committee on Commerce.

Mr. Butler said that no quorum of the Judiciary Committee was in attendance. With a view of presenting that committee to the House, he moved to adjourn. The motion was agreed to.

Mr. Houston reported the bill of the Committee on Ways and Means, a petition proposing the purchase of the "Winder buildings," in Washington, and recommended its reference to the Committee on Public Buildings.

The Senate bill making the Secretary of the Senate a disbursing officer, was reported back by Mr. Houston, from the Committee on Ways and Means, with a recommendation that the bill be referred to the Senate Committee on Finance.

Mr. Ewing of Kentucky, arose and addressed the Committee on that part of the President's Message relating to rivers and harbors, and especially the recommendation of tonnage dues, the amount of which was \$150,000. He moved to strike out the words "and the like," and to add "and the like."

Mr. Houston reported the bill of the Committee on Finance, as amended by the Senate.

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THE PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE.—A correspondent of the New York *Tribune*, in his letter of the 10th instant, says:

"Mr. Atchison is known to be rather Southern in his feelings, and his hatred of Colonel Benton is so thorough that he is shrewdly suspected of opposition to the central route on account of the interest felt in it by his colleague. There can be very little sympathy between the great majority of the people of Missouri and Senator Atchison, and it is probably true, as I have heard suggested, that, in the event of his failure to be re-elected in the Senate, he will retire to Texas."

We know nothing of the grounds on which this conjecture is based; but we are sure that the pro-slavery sentiments and actions of Mr. Atchison will never be sustained by the people of Missouri.

CONGRESS.

THIRTY-THIRD CONGRESS—FIRST SESSION.

Senate, January 12, 1854.

The Chair laid before the Senate a communication from the Secretary of War, transmitting the report of the officers appointed to select a site for a military asylum at the West. Referred.

Mr. Butler said that no quorum of the Judiciary Committee was in attendance. With a view of presenting that committee to the House, he moved to adjourn. The motion was agreed to.

Mr. Straub wished to know if certain important omissions could not be supplied before the publication. He alluded especially to certain mineral staples of different sections of the country.

Mr. Skelton supported the amendment. He was opposed to giving books to members of Congress, but wished to let the people of the country know in all its details the extent, the wealth, the population, and the power of their country.

Mr. Florence of Pennsylvania, was always in favor of presenting to the people, in the most diffuse manner possible, all information of interest to them; and he regarded the Census returns as information of the most valuable kind.

He wondered at the accuracy that had been attained, in view of the facts that the deputy marshal had been appointed chiefly with reference to their political sentiments and affinities, but especially in view of, as he regarded it, the unnecessary and injurious change of the Superintendent of the Census.

Mr. Butler said that the amendment was adopted.

The reports of committees were here presented, embracing many resolutions, bills, &c. of a private or unimportant character.

Mr. Houston reported from the Committee of Ways and Means, a petition proposing the purchase of the "Winder buildings," in Washington, and recommended its reference to the Committee on Public Buildings.

The Senate bill making the Secretary of the Senate a disbursing officer, was reported back by Mr. Houston, from the Committee on Finance.

Mr. Ewing of Kentucky, arose and addressed the Committee on that part of the President's Message relating to rivers and harbors, and especially the recommendation of tonnage dues, the amount of which was \$150,000.

Mr. Butler said that no quorum of the Senate was in attendance, after his motion to adjourn.

Mr. Ewing of Kentucky, moved to strike out the words "and the like," and to add "and the like."

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WASHINGTON, D. C.

BUCCANEERING IN CALIFORNIA.

The late arrivals from California bring accounts of a most remarkable state of affairs. Various parties of American citizens are openly attempting to obtain possession of Sonora, a State belonging to Mexico, and annex it to the United States. Cap. Walker, as has already been announced, has made a descent upon it, with a handful of followers, set up a Government, organized a Cabinet, and adopted the civil code of Louisiana. Mr. Emery, Secretary of the sham Republic, having returned to San Francisco, has been raising recruits. California is in a state of high excitement; the buccaneering spirit is everywhere aroused; the flag of a recruiting station has been hoisted in San Francisco. Bands of armed men embark in broad daylight, and more than a thousand adventurers have sailed to reinforce Walker, without molestation from State or Federal authorities. More atrocious violations of the rights of a friendly nation have never been committed. The whole scheme from beginning to end is one of robbery and murder. It is a damning disgrace to the people of this Union, and to the Government, which from remissness or connivance has failed to curb it. Had it been less engrossed in crushing out the spirit of the country, it would have had more time to devote to the suppression of these buccaneering projects.

A San Francisco paper says that the department of Sonora comprises 75,000 square miles—about one-half as much as the area of California—and that the population is estimated at from 60,000 to 100,000, including 10,000 or 15,000 Apaches, and other wild Indians. A portion of the country is susceptible of tillage—the plains and the region near the mountains abounding in mines of silver and gold. The same journal adds:

"There are several good ports on the Gulf; Guayamas is the best. If Sonora should be annexed, the Gila route would rise in importance, and the Pacific railroad would necessarily go thither. Sonora is nearer to the Mississippi than to the Gulf. The Gila would have attracted more immigrants. From Santa Fe to the nearest mines in 350 miles, and to Guayamas is about 550 miles. The annexation of Sonora would make El Paso a place of importance, which is only about 350 miles from Guayamas, and would be on the main route to the Mississippi Valley. Guayamas is about 900 miles from this city by the land trail."

One fact is overlooked or suppressed in the accounts generally published in the newspapers this side of the mountains: it is, that at the bottom of all these buccaneering projects lies that root of evil, that ever-working element of violence, discord, and ruin—Negro Slavery. The same sinister influence which planted Slave Labor in Texas, brought about a war with Mexico, has repeatedly interfered for the purpose of bolstering up Slavery in Cuba, forced upon the country the Compromises of 1850, and is now demanding entrance into Nebraska, has originated the piratical movements against Sonora. To prove that we do not speak at random, we copy the following from an editorial in the *Alta California* of December 15th, the oldest journal, we believe, in that State:

"As long ago as last winter there was a great excitement in the process of forming, for the purpose of taking the State of Sonora, and placing the institution of Slavery on the Pacific. The head-quarters of those 'manifest destiny' men, who foresaw that the people of the United States must carry the principles of liberty, equality, and republicanism, to all parts of North America, was Benicia. A detectable crowd of hangers-on were about the capital, whose chief object was to mature their plans for this campaign. They saw the duty clearly before them, to carry the glorious institution of Slavery into territory now free from it, at the point of the bayonet. To serve their plans, they met at Benicia, and, like prudent and sensible men, took a walk across the mountains to the Legislature, and without doing any duty, they got from \$10 to \$20 per day. Since then they have been at work, cautiously and adroitly arranging their plans and the ball has now opened. The great work has begun, and our citizens are rushing to the scene of action to share the booty, the beauty, and the glory."

"It is a well-known fact, that for years there has been a class of men in this State who have been wild to get Slavery introduced, and who have devised various projects by which to effect that most desirable object. But they have failed—signally failed; and though men of great energy and talent have been engaged in it, with energy at home and assistance from the older states to help it along, their labors have been lost. On a day when it was to assert, the Slavey propagandists could not get one vote out of seven throughout the State. But they were not so to be balked. If they could not get what they wanted here, and could get it in the neighboring State of Sonora, it would spread from there, and gradually crawl up in this direction. If a foal could once be obtained on the coast, they fancied it would spread, and the broad flag of Slavery encircle in its glorious folds a large part of our country's possessions on the Pacific."

"Such was the object, in its incipiency, of the expedition against Sonora. What are the probabilities of its success?"

It proceeds to say that the People of California, when fully awakened to the true nature of this scheme, will overwhelm it with their indignation.

"They are decidedly and unequivocally opposed to Slavery on the Pacific, as they have repeatedly shown on various occasions. And when it shall be known that this crusade is for the purpose of thwarting their wishes in this particular, the whole scheme will appear most damnable wicked in their eyes. A howl of indignation will go up from one end of the State to the other against it, and against all who have favored it, and the people will not calmly look on and see organized companies go forth on so unrighteous a mission. It will give rise to a fierce and bitter war at home against it, and whoever shall be found linked in with it, will be liable to the same of action himself. He will be stigmatized, and from that moment be a marked man, who had sought by stealth to set aught in the great principle of republicanism, that the voice of the people should be the voice of authority and rule throughout the land."

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A CAPTURED SLAVER.—The schooner N. H. Gambrill, Lieut. De Camp, commanding, arrived at New York on the 5th inst., in 35 days from Leyendo, South Africa, after having experienced a succession of violent gales, which stove in her bulwarks, and did other damage. She hails from Baltimore, is a slave, and prize to the United States frigate Constitution, Commodore Isaac Mayo, and was captured on the 31st November, off Copen Hill, and placed in charge of Lieut. De Camp, who brought her to New York.

WILLIAM WALKER, PRESIDENT OF LOWER CALIFORNIA.—But a few days have passed since our readers perused the remarkable proclamation of this gentleman to the people of the United States. More recent accounts represent him and his men—his cabinet, army and navy—as being in imminent peril. The New York Times says of him:

"He is a man of much talent, evidently, and of a thorough education, having graduated in medicine, both here and in Paris, and after spending a few years in the medical school, he has been a surgeon to the army in Mexico. He is, perhaps, rather better calculated to give rise to a feeling of 'self-complacency,' than the strictures of the editor of the *Dispatch* are to produce an opposite state of mind. Evidently, however, our *forte*, in his opinion, lies not in style, any more than does his, in our opinion, lie in biblical criticism."

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THE LEGISLATURE OF MAINE, which assembled at Augusta, the capital on Wednesday last, has been recently constituted. The Senate consists of 31 members, and the House of 132, elected, of whom six are Whigs, and seven Democrats; and there are eighteen vacancies which are to be filled by the House of Representatives. The latter body stands politically 76 Democrats, 66 Whigs, and 9 Free-Soilers. But of the 76, Democrats there are from 17 to 20 who are bitterly opposed to all the candidates of that party, and who are expected to refuse to vote for them.

THE MAINE LAW AT ALBANY.—The members of the Legislature in favor of the Maine Law, with a number of the leading advocates of the law who are not members, have held several consultations in regard to the form of a bill, and in relation to the most practicable mode of rendering the enactment effective. Differences of opinion have been entertained as to the expediency of the proposed amendment to the Constitution, which would give the power to the Legislature to prohibit the sale of slaves within the State. But we are not so to be balked. If they could not get what they wanted here, and could get it in the neighboring State of Sonora, it would spread from there, and gradually crawl up in this direction. If a foal could once be obtained on the coast, they fancied it would spread, and the broad flag of Slavery encircle in its glorious folds a large part of our country's possessions on the Pacific."

THE SLAVERY IN BRAZIL.—The schooner N. H. Gambrill, Lieut. De Camp, commanding, arrived at New York on the 5th inst., in 35 days from Leyendo, South Africa, after having experienced a succession of violent gales, which stove in her bulwarks, and did other damage. She hails from Baltimore, is a slave, and prize to the United States frigate Constitution, Commodore Isaac Mayo, and was captured on the 31st November, off Copen Hill, and placed in charge of Lieut. De Camp, who brought her to New York.

ANTISLAVERY IN BRAZIL.—The schooner N. H. Gambrill, Lieut. De Camp, commanding, arrived at New York on the 5th inst., in 35 days from Leyendo, South Africa, after having experienced a succession of violent gales, which stove in her bulwarks, and did other damage. She hails from Baltimore, is a slave, and prize to the United States frigate Constitution, Commodore Isaac Mayo, and was captured on the 31st November, off Copen Hill, and placed in charge of Lieut. De Camp, who brought her to New York.

THE SLAVERY IN BRAZIL.—The New Orleans *Crescent*, of the 27th of December, relates the following, under its police head:

"A *Savage Master*.—A runaway negro man, calling himself Louis, was brought before Recorder Windham yesterday. He was a most wretched-looking chit, and his hideous appearance attested the truth of his story of hard treatment and barbarous severity. He had but one hand, his head was tied up, as if in consequence of some recent hurt, and his face was emaciated, and would, if possible, have been pale. He stated that he belonged to a man named Lynch, who had a plantation across the river, and that he had run away in consequence of his master frequently beating him without cause, and with the utmost severity; he declared that Lynch had shot at him twice, and had repeatedly threatened to kill

him; and that, being apprehensive he might carry his threats into execution, he had run away, and come to the city to claim the protection of the authorities. He had been bought, it appears, in Kentucky, by his present master, and his former owner had late endeavored to re-purchase him; and because Lynch had absolutely refused to sell him at any price, some had been uncharitable enough to infer that he retained him as an object upon which to exercise his cruelty.

Mrs. Stowe's "extravagant and impossible" incidents in the life of Uncle Tom, no doubt, begin to look like veritable deeds, even to Southern eyes. Now that the attention of men is directed to the search for such things, they look up in most horribly convincing plentifulness.

THE Eloquence of Hon. Gerrit Smith.

The source of the power of an orator over his audience is a thing that has never been described. The presence of the orator can alone reveal it. His language may be written down and printed, word for word as he delivers it, and yet fail to impress the reader with more than ordinary emotions; but we can only attempt to describe the looks, the gestures, the tones, and the modulations of the speaker.

There are people in the South, as well as the North, who love plain speaking.

Another subscriber, also residing, who lives in Georgia, writes—

"If had the leisure, I would write you at length on the subject of Slavery, and show that while it has been no injury or disadvantage to that body, a member remarked, very audibly, that 'the Smith family appeared to have possessed of the Hall!'" In a few moments, however, that gentleman, as did almost every individual present, leaned forward, profoundly attentive, to catch every word that should fall from the lips of the speaker. Along the aisle there were many who paused and stood still to listen. We looked around to observe the aspect of the House, and could nowhere detect an instance of inattention. Whence was the charm? Our readers have perused the words of the speaker. They were beautifully simple and appropriate; but the occasion did not permit the utterance of vehemence or impassioned language. The remarkable effect produced would not have been witnessed, if any other orator had uttered these words. It has been said that it proceeded from the peculiar voice of Mr. Smith, which is described by a writer as 'equal to that of Henry Clay.' We were familiar with the tones of Mr. Clay's voice, and have often been enraptured with its effect; but, in our opinion, it is by no means so uniformly good as that of Mr. Smith. We have

What follows is from the pen of a citizen of Virginia, one of our sympathetic Southern readers, who lately furnished us an article on the Richmond (Va.) *Dispatch*.

"An article recently published in the *National Era*, containing upon one page the *Ridout Dispatch*, is assayed by the editor of the latter paper, who certainly should be unquestionable authority on all matters of fact to be from the pen of Professor Charles D. Cleveland. This statement has given rise in my mind to a千 of the *Smith* family, to the fraud and the foulery of the delusion, to secure its being thus carried step by step into effect whilst the imposter laughs in his sleeve, and the gull'd Powers have much cause for shame and tears. Looking back on the process the world over, it is truly astonishing and it is only when we consider that neither the propagandists nor the press have the public to bear the word of straight-forward candor or real truth, we can reconcile it to our minds that such a solemn and sanguinary farce has been enacted.

The President's Message has been exceedingly well received and favorably construed in England; but the only feeling of consequence by which it is to be regarded is that of the author of the *Era*, but whether he be the author of the *Smith* family or not, is at this moment a question.

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